

SERVICES TO HEARING AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS

WHEREAS, Statistics show that students who are hearing and visually impaired and not properly educated or trained, tend to remain unemployed or under employed; and

WHEREAS, These students must receive the needed training to become thriving, productive and competitive members of society; and

WHEREAS, The Idaho School Boards Association supports providing comprehensive educational services to the hearing and visually impaired students in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, To insure a comprehensive continuum of educational services, financial support for the education of the students must be adequate and sustainable; and

WHEREAS, No single approach or form of education can meet the needs of all children in the state who are hearing or visually impaired; and

WHEREAS, The forced placement of hearing and/or visually impaired students in local districts will create additional educational, legal and medical liabilities and expenses on the district; and options should include a residential component; and

WHEREAS, The Idaho School Boards Association feels that a continuum of educational delivery such as the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association request the Idaho Legislature to provide proper funding and authority to engage in the educational fields for the education and training of visually and hearing impaired to evaluate delivery options and to propose a statewide delivery system that best meets the needs of all of our low incident disabled students while maintaining services at the Gooding School for the Deaf and Blind.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: Disbanding the centralized blind and deaf education agency and expecting local school districts or regional consortiums to maintain high standards of quality and consistency is a recipe for chaos and disaster. The Idaho School Boards Association supports a careful and deliberate phased approach so Idaho's hearing and visually impaired students will not be the ones "left out."

PASSED

AYES	2540
NAYS	511
TOTAL	3051

Submitted by American Falls Joint School District No. 381, Gooding Joint School District No. 231, Jerome Joint School District No. 261, Meridian Joint School District No. 2, Potlatch School District No. 285, Teton County School District No. 401 and Twin Falls School District No. 411.